

## 2012 February Newsletter

The Municipality has surprised us with the unexpected early release of the new Property Valuation Roll. We are attempting to obtain a database version of the roll to load onto our website, but in the mean time a printed copy is available for perusal at the Tourism Info office in Milkwood Village, or you can download an Acrobat pdf version from the Municipal website [www.george.org.za](http://www.george.org.za). We have not yet had the opportunity to study the roll in detail, but it seems that a general reduction in property values has been recognized. This is not necessarily cause for celebrating a lower rates bill, as the Municipality has yet to determine the rates tariff for their 2012/13 budget year. Knowing the extent of financial difficulties they have got themselves into, it is highly unlikely that we will get away with paying them less money overall. At our committee meeting last week, which was attended by a number of municipal officials, we were warned that Municipal finances are in such dire straits, not only will this coming financial year be tough on everyone, but so will the following two years. The draft budget for 2012/13 will be produced at the end of March, and we await its release with great interest.

Some good news is that the Municipality are planning to introduce George's Integrated Transport System in June, although we are still not sure when it will come to Wilderness. We also received a commitment that the current plague of illegal signage will be dealt with. Other topics to come out of the meeting is the recognition that Wilderness has no law enforcement to monitor the taxi parking situation and problems caused by self-appointed "car guards", drunkards, and assorted vagrants. It is also worrying that the greater George area has recently seen the highest number of burglaries in 12 years.

With reference to the Turn-It-Around crime watch website mentioned in our previous newsletter, we are now able to automatically add you to the WRRRA crime network, should you wish us to do so. Being registered with the WRRRA crime watch network means that you will be advised immediately by email or SMS when a crime is committed within the boundaries of our network. You will also receive alerts regarding any suspicious activity in the area, which will enable you to be more aware of your personal security. You will also be able to report on criminal activity, or alert other members about suspicious persons or activities in your own neighbourhood. We really believe this is a very good crime fighting tool, so are happy to do the work of signing you up automatically, but need you to let us know ASAP if you want to participate, bearing in mind the above-mentioned increase in crime.

Following our request to the Western Cape Liquor Board for their motivated reasons for granting a liquor licence to Wildernis Liquors in the village, regardless of a flood of objections, we have to date not had any response, despite paying them the requisite fee. We have therefore lodged a complaint with the Public Protector and are taking other legal advice on how to compel the Liquor Board to provide us with their reasons, other than because "it is in the public interest".

We have been advised by Eskom that The Wilderness and surrounding areas will be without power on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February from 05:00 to 21:00**. If the scheduled work cannot be carried out on that day for any reason, the back-up date is Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

St. Mary's Primary School has advised us that they are having their annual Surfwalk on 17<sup>th</sup> March at the Touw River Mouth. This is a fundraising event in which learners and parents walk along the beach from Kleinkrantz at 8:00am to the Touw River mouth, where fun activities will take place from 11:00 until 14:00.

Please note that motivated by the need to move towards electronic banking, your committee has arranged to switch to an on-line banking system with FNB, enabling us to follow payment of

subscriptions more speedily. Our banking details remain the same.